

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 28, 2005 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-17 are currently pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Qureshi (WO 9727713) in view of Kreppel (U.S. Patent No. 6,574,201). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Qureshi (WO 9727713) in view of Kreppel (U.S. Patent No. 6,574,201) in further view of Shah (U.S. Patent No. 6,018,737). Claims 6, 9, 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Qureshi (WO 9727713) in view of Kreppel (U.S. Patent No. 6,574,201) in further view of Gransberg (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,503). The above rejections are respectfully traversed for the reasons which follow.

Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art reference of Kreppel, cited in all of the above rejections, does not constitute a valid prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. §102. Kreppel has a filing date of July 2, 1999, while the present application has a priority date of October 19, 1998. A certified copy of the Finnish priority document, which is in English, was filed on April 17, 2001, thereby perfecting Applicants priority date. Therefore, Kreppel was filed after the priority date of the present application. As

such, Kreppel is not a valid prior art reference and cannot be cited against the present application. Applicants respectfully request that all of the above rejections be withdrawn and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



Majid S. AlBassam
Registration No. 54,749

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

MSA:jf